

CLAIMS

WE claim:

1. A method for forming a laminate comprising:
  - 5       - introducing a nonelastic material into contact with an elastic material;
  - introducing said nonelastic material and elastic material to a pressure differential source, with said nonelastic material interposed between said pressure differential source and said elastic material;
  - applying a pressure differential via said pressure differential source to form an
  - 10       apertured laminate.
2. A method for forming a laminate as in claim 1 further comprising introducing a third nonwoven material to said first or said second nonwoven material.
3. A method for forming a laminate as in claim 1 wherein said elastic material is skinless.
4. A method for forming a laminate as in claim 1 wherein said nonelastic material is
- 15       apertured.
5. A method for forming a laminate as in claim 1 further comprising:
  - interposing an aperture definition device between said pressure differential source and said nonelastic material.
6. A method for forming a laminate comprising:
  - 20       - introducing a first nonelastic material into contact with an elastic material;
  - introducing a second nonelastic material into contact with said elastic material;
  - introducing said first nonelastic material, said elastic material and said second nonelastic material to a pressure differential source, with said first nonelastic material interposed between said pressure differential source and said elastic material, and said
  - 25       first nonelastic material and said elastic material interposed between said pressure differential source and second nonelastic material;
  - applying a pressure differential via said pressure differential source to form an apertured laminate.
7. A method for forming a laminate as in claim 6 further comprising:
  - 30       - introducing said first nonelastic material, said elastic material and said second nonelastic material to a pressure source.
8. A method for forming a laminate as in claim 6 further comprising introducing a third nonwoven material to said first or said second nonwoven material.
9. A method for forming a laminate as in claim 6 further comprising a skinless elastic

material.

10. A method for forming a laminate as in claim 6 wherein either of said first or second nonelastic material is apertured.

11. A method for forming a laminate as in claim 6 further comprising:

5       - interposing an aperture definition device between said pressure differential source and said nonelastic material.

12. A method for forming a laminate comprising:

      - introducing a nonelastic material into contact with an elastic material;  
      - introducing said nonelastic material and elastic material to a pressure differential  
10       source, with said elastic material interposed between said pressure differential source and said nonelastic material;  
      - applying a pressure differential via said pressure differential source to form an apertured laminate.

13. A method for forming a laminate as in claim 12 further comprising a skinless elastic  
15       material.

14. A method for forming a laminate as in claim 12 wherein said nonelastic material is apertured.

15. A method for forming a laminate as in claim 12 further comprising:

20       - interposing an aperture definition device between said pressure differential source and said nonelastic material.

16. A method for modifying a laminate comprising modifying a laminate characteristic as said laminate is being constructed through modifying a parameter selected from the group consisting of: modifying the phase of the elastic material prior to bonding; modifying a pressure differential applied by a pressure differential source; modifying pressure  
25       imposed by a pressure source; modifying apertures in a nonelastic material; modifying apertures provided in a aperture definition device; and, modifying stretching of a laminate following lamination.

17. A method for modifying a laminate as in claim 16 wherein said laminate characteristic is selected from the group consisting of bond, softness, elasticity, and breathability.

30       18. A method for forming a laminate comprising:

      - introducing a first nonwoven layer to a vacuum forming screen;  
      - extruding a thermoplastic elastomeric film material onto the first nonwoven layer opposite the screen;

- applying a vacuum on the screen opposite the first nonwoven layer to pull the thermoplastic elastomeric material against the first nonwoven bonding the nonwoven to the elastomeric material and creating irregular apertures in the elastomeric material; bonding a second nonwoven layer to the elastomeric material opposite the first nonwoven layer to form a three layer laminate; and
- 5 incrementally stretching the laminate to form an elastomeric laminate.
- 19. An undergarment comprised primarily of the laminate formed by claim 18.
- 20. An absorbent article comprising:
  - a breathable elastic laminate comprising a low fuzz apertured nonwoven material
  - 10 with at least one slit; and an elastomeric member wherein said elastomeric member is laminated to said low fuzz apertured nonwoven material.
- 21. An absorbent article as in claim 20 further comprising a female menstrual product.
- 22. An absorbent article as in claim 21 wherein said female menstrual product is a sanitary napkin.
- 15 23. An absorbent article as in claim 20 further comprising an incontinence product.
- 24. An absorbent article as in claim 20 further comprising an adult incontinence product.
- 25. An absorbent article as in claim 20 further comprising a child incontinence product.
- 26. An absorbent article as in claim 20 further comprising an infant incontinence product.
- 27. An absorbent article as in claim 20 further comprising a bandage.
- 20 28. An elastic laminate comprised of:
  - an elastomeric film material with apertures;
  - a first nonwoven layer bonded to the elastomeric film material; and
  - a second nonwoven layer bonded to the elastomeric film material opposite the first nonwoven layer, fibers extending outwardly from both the first nonwoven layer and
  - 25 the second nonwoven layer.
- 29. An undergarment comprised primarily of the laminate of claim 28.
- 30. An absorbent article comprising:
  - a breathable elastic laminate comprising a low fuzz apertured nonwoven material
  - 30 with at least one slit; and an elastomeric member wherein said elastomeric member is laminated to said low fuzz apertured nonwoven material.
- 31. An absorbent article as in claim 30 further comprising a female menstrual product.
- 32. An absorbent article as in claim 31 wherein said female menstrual product is a sanitary napkin.

33. An absorbent article as in claim 30 further comprising an incontinence product.
34. An absorbent article as in claim 30 further comprising an adult incontinence product.
35. An absorbent article as in claim 30 further comprising a child incontinence product.
36. An absorbent article as in claim 30 further comprising an infant incontinence product.
- 5 37. An absorbent article as in claim 30 further comprising a bandage.
38. A composite material comprising:
- a nonwoven web comprising a plurality of incisions; and,
  - an elastomeric member;
- wherein said elastomeric member is laminated to said nonwoven web material.
- 10 39. A composite material as in claim 38 wherein said incisions are configured within said nonwoven web according to predetermined parameters.
40. A composite material as in claim 39 wherein said predetermined parameters further comprise predetermined stretch characteristics of said composite material.
41. A composite material as in claim 38 wherein said plurality of incisions comprises a plurality of slits.
- 15 42. A composite material as in claim 38 wherein said nonwoven web material further comprises a low fuzz apertured nonwoven material.
43. A laminate comprising:
- a low fuzz apertured nonwoven material with at least one slit;
  - 20 an elastomeric member;
- wherein said elastomeric member is laminated to said low fuzz apertured nonwoven material.
44. A laminate as in claim 43 comprising a plurality of slits.
45. A laminate as in claim 44 wherein said plurality of slits are present in a predetermined configuration.
- 25 46. A laminate as in claim 45 wherein said predetermined configuration further comprises predetermined stretch characteristics.
47. An absorbent article comprising:
- a breathable elastic laminate comprising a low fuzz apertured nonwoven material
  - 30 with at least one slit; and an elastomeric member wherein said elastomeric member is laminated to said low fuzz apertured nonwoven material.
48. An absorbent article as in claim 47 further comprising a female menstrual product.
49. An absorbent article as in claim 48 wherein said female menstrual product is a sanitary

napkin.

50. An absorbent article as in claim 47 further comprising an incontinence product.
51. An absorbent article as in claim 47 further comprising an adult incontinence product.
52. An absorbent article as in claim 47 further comprising a child incontinence product.
- 5 53. An absorbent article as in claim 47 further comprising an infant incontinence product.
54. An absorbent article as in claim 47 further comprising a bandage.
55. An absorbent article as in claim 47 wherein said elastomeric member is partially laminated to said low fuzz apertured nonwoven material.
56. An absorbent article as in claim 55 wherein said elastomeric member is partially  
10 laminated to said low fuzz apertured nonwoven material so that air channels are provided between said elastomeric member and said low fuzz apertured nonwoven material.
57. An absorbent article as in claim 55 wherein said elastomeric member is comprised of styrene copolymer.
58. An absorbent article as in claim 55 wherein said low fuzz apertured nonwoven material is  
15 comprised of polyethylene.
59. A method for producing a laminate comprising:  
- laminating a low fuzz apertured nonwoven material with a plurality of slits to an elastomeric member.
60. A method as in claim 59 wherein said elastomeric member is selected from the group  
20 consisting essentially of: elastic strand; elastic nonwoven; elastic film; elastic adhesive; or elastic tacky polymeric web.
61. A method as in claim 59 wherein said plurality of slits is provided to said low fuzz nonwoven apertured material in a predetermined pattern.
62. A method for providing stretch characteristics to a laminate comprising: providing at least  
25 one incision into a nonwoven web, and laminating said nonwoven web to an elastomeric member.
63. A method as in claim 62 further comprising providing a plurality of incisions.
64. A method as in claim 63 wherein said plurality of incisions comprise a plurality of slits.
65. A method as in claim 62 wherein said plurality of incisions are provided according to  
30 predetermined parameters.
66. A method as in claim 65 wherein said predetermined parameters are provided according to predetermined stretch characteristics.
67. A method for constructing an absorbent article comprising:

- laminating a low fuzz apertured nonwoven material with a plurality of slits to an elastomeric member.

68. A method as in claim 67 wherein said absorbent article comprises a female menstrual product.

5 69. A method as in claim 68 wherein said female menstrual product is a sanitary napkin.

70. A method as in claim 67 wherein said absorbent article comprises an incontinence product.

71. A method as in claim 67 wherein said absorbent article comprises an adult incontinence product.

10 72. A method as in claim 67 wherein said absorbent article comprises a child incontinence product.

73. A method as in claim 67 wherein said absorbent article comprises an infant incontinence product.

74. A method as in claim 67 wherein said absorbent article comprises a bandage.

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